



**PATENT**  
Docket No: 57953/1151

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

|            |   |                                |   |             |
|------------|---|--------------------------------|---|-------------|
| Applicants | : | Mahajan et al.                 | ) | Examiner:   |
|            |   |                                | ) | Ramin (Ray) |
| Serial No. | : | 10/645,250                     | ) | Akhavan     |
|            |   |                                | ) |             |
| Cnfrm. No. | : | 7913                           | ) | Art Unit:   |
|            |   |                                | ) | 1636        |
| Filed      | : | August 20, 2003                | ) |             |
|            |   |                                | ) |             |
| For        | : | NIF-1 IS A NOVEL CO-TRANSDUCER | ) |             |
|            |   | THAT INTERACTS WITH AND        | ) |             |
|            |   | REGULATES THE ACTIVITY OF THE  | ) |             |
|            |   | NUCLEAR HORMONE RECEPTOR CO-   | ) |             |
|            |   | ACTIVATOR, NRC                 | ) |             |

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

**Mail Stop Amendment**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the November 30, 2005, restriction requirement, applicants hereby elect, with traverse, Group 1 (i.e., claims 1-7), where the invention is defined by nucleic acid molecules having nucleotide sequences SEQ ID NO: 1 and SEQ ID NO: 4, as well as the nucleic acid molecule encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3.


Applicants traverse the restriction requirement on the basis that the claims of the present application are closely related and, therefore, require common areas of search and consideration. Since no serious burden exists for search and examination of the groups defined in the outstanding office action, no benefit is derived from imposing restriction among Groups 1-28. Therefore, the restriction requirement should be withdrawn.

At the very least, applicants request that the restriction requirement be withdrawn with respect to Groups 1 and 2. The invention of Group 2 (claims 1-7) is defined by the nucleic acid molecule having the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5, as well as the nucleic acid molecule encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6. The nucleic acid

molecules of Group 1 encode the NRC Interacting Factor-1 (i.e. the NIF-1 protein), while the nucleic acid molecules of Group II encode the NIF-2 protein. As explained in paragraph [0055] of the present application, the NIF-2 protein is an alternatively spliced form of NIF-1. The difference between NIF-1 and NIF-2 is illustrated in Figure 1C of the present application. As noted in paragraph [0139] of the present application, NIF-2 retains the NRC interaction region which includes zinc-finger 6 of NIF-1. As is apparent from this drawing and the alternative splicing connection of NIF-2 to NIF-1, the inventions of Groups 1 and 2 are closely related to one another. This is demonstrated by the fact that the nucleic acid molecules of Groups 1 and 2 are all classified in the restriction requirement as belonging to class 536, subclass 23.1 (*see* page 2). For all these reasons, the assertion in the outstanding office action that Groups 1 and 2 are "unrelated" is completely inaccurate. Therefore, applicants submit that, at the very least, the restriction between Group 1 and Group 2 is improper and should be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 8, 2006



Michael L. Goldman  
Registration No. 30,727

NIXON PEABODY LLP  
Clinton Square, P.O. Box 31051  
Rochester, New York 14603-1051  
Telephone: (585) 263-1304  
Facsimile: (585) 263-1600

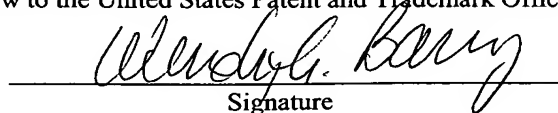
CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION [37 CFR 1.8(a)]

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March 8, 2006  
Date

  
Signature

Wendy L. Barry  
Type or Print Name